



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Committee Bill No. 533

LCO No. 3743

03743SB00533GAE

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and
Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

**AN ACT CONCERNING GIFTS AND CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS
MADE TO ELECTED MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) As used in this section and
2 section 2 of this act:

3 (1) "Gift" means anything of value, including entertainment, food,
4 beverage, travel and lodging given or paid to a public official or public
5 employee to the extent that consideration of equal or greater value is
6 not received. A gift does not include:

7 (A) A political contribution otherwise reported as required by law
8 or a donation or payment as described in subdivision (9) or (11) of
9 subsection (b) of section 9-601a of the general statutes;

10 (B) Services provided by persons volunteering their time for a
11 political campaign;

12 (C) A commercially reasonable loan made on terms not more
13 favorable than loans made in the ordinary course of business;

14 (D) A gift received from (i) an individual's spouse, fiancé or fiancée,
15 (ii) the parent, brother or sister of such spouse or such individual, or
16 (iii) the child of such individual or the spouse of such child;

17 (E) Goods or services which are provided to the municipality or
18 district and facilitate governmental action or functions;

19 (F) A certificate, plaque or other ceremonial award costing less than
20 one hundred dollars;

21 (G) A rebate or discount on the price of anything of value given in
22 the ordinary course of business without regard to the recipient's status;

23 (H) Printed or recorded informational material germane to
24 governmental action or functions;

25 (I) Items of nominal value, not to exceed ten dollars, containing or
26 displaying promotional material;

27 (J) An honorary degree bestowed upon a public official or public
28 employee by a public or private university or college;

29 (K) A meal provided at an event or the registration or entrance fee
30 to attend such an event, in which the public employee or public official
31 participates in said person's official capacity;

32 (L) A meal provided in the home by an individual who resides in
33 the municipality or district; or

34 (M) Gifts in-kind of nominal value not to exceed twenty-five dollars
35 tendered on gift-giving occasions generally recognized by the public
36 including Christmas, Hanukkah, birthdays, the birth or adoption of a
37 child, weddings, confirmations or bar or bat mitzvahs, provided the
38 total value of such gifts in any calendar year do not exceed fifty
39 dollars.

40 (2) "Immediate family" means any spouse, child or dependent

41 relative who resides in the individual's household.

42 (3) "Individual" means a natural person.

43 (4) "Municipality" means a town, city or borough.

44 (5) "Person" means an individual, sole proprietorship, trust,
45 corporation, union, association, firm, partnership, committee, club or
46 other organization or group of persons.

47 (6) "Public official" means an elected official, whether paid or
48 unpaid or full or part time, of a municipality or political subdivision
49 thereof, or a district, including candidates for the office and shall also
50 include a district officer elected pursuant to section 7-327 of the general
51 statutes.

52 (7) "District" means a district established pursuant to section 7-324
53 of the general statutes.

54 (8) "Contribution" means contribution as defined in section 9-601a of
55 the general statutes.

56 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) No public official shall solicit
57 or accept any gift from any person that, to the official's knowledge, is
58 doing business with the municipality or district in which the official is
59 employed.

60 (b) No public official shall solicit or accept any gift from any
61 individual who is in the immediate family of a person that, to the
62 official's knowledge, is doing business with the municipality or district
63 in which the official is employed.

64 (c) No public official shall solicit or accept any gift from an
65 individual who is an employee of a person that, to the official's
66 knowledge, is doing business with the municipality or district in which
67 the official is employed.

68 (d) No public official shall solicit or accept a contribution of more
 69 than fifty dollars in any one election cycle from: (1) A person that, to
 70 the official's knowledge, is doing business with the municipality or
 71 district in which the official is employed, (2) an individual in the
 72 immediate family of a person that, to the official's knowledge, is doing
 73 business with said municipality or district, or (3) an individual who is
 74 an employee of a person that, to the official's knowledge, is doing
 75 business with said municipality or district.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To limit gifts and campaign contributions made to elected municipal officials by persons doing business with the municipality.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

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Co-Sponsors: SEN. GAFFEY, 13th Dist.

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